



JANUARY 18, 2021

Forest Service, Northern Region, Idaho Panhandle National Forests St. Joe Ranger District Benewah, Latah, and Shoshone Counties, Idaho Opportunity to Object -Emerald Project Matthew Davis, St. Joe District Ranger has prepared an environmental assessment (EA), draft decision notice (DN) and finding of no significant impact (FONSI) for the Emerald Project. He has selected the proposed action, as described in the Emerald Project EA and summarized in the draft DN. The project area is about 21,627 acres and is located west of the town of Clarkia and about 33 miles southeast of St. Maries, Idaho, on the St. Joe Ranger District in Benewah, Latah, and Shoshone Counties. The proposed activities are located on Federal lands primarily within the Emerald Creek drainage. It is within T42N, R1W, Sections 1, 12, 13, and portions of 2, 4, 5, 9 - 11, 14 - 16, 22 -24; T43N, R1E, parts of sections 31 - 36; T43N, R2E, part of section 31; T42N, R2E, parts of sections 6 and 7; T42N, R1E, sections 1 - 11, 14 - 18, 21 - 23 and parts of sections 12, 19, 20, and 24 - 29 (Boise Meridian). The proposed action for the Emerald project includes vegetation and road management activities. Vegetation management may occur on 2,741 acres. Activities include regeneration harvest prescriptions on about 2,478 acres and intermediate harvest on about 30 acres. There would be post-harvest fuels reduction and shaded fuel break treatments. Road management activities include constructing about 7 miles of temporary roads and nearly 12 miles of new system road, and providing road maintenance on 47 miles, road reconditioning on 23 miles, and reconstruction on about 14 miles to ensure route safety. Closed and temporary roads will be returned to their existing condition and legal status no later than 3 years after project completion. For

more details, please refer to the complete EA, along with supporting documentation, which is available for viewing and downloading on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests website at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54817>. The Emerald Project is subject to the objection process pursuant to 36 CFR 218, subparts A and B. Objections will only be accepted from those who have previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project during scoping or other designated opportunity for public comment in accordance with §218.5(a). Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted comments regarding the proposed project, unless based on new information arising after the designated comment opportunities. Objections, including attachments, must be filed via fax, mail, express delivery, messenger service, or email to: Objection Reviewing Officer, USDA Forest Service, Northern Region 26 Fort Missoula Road Missoula, MT 59804 FAX to (406) 329-3411, Email: appeals-northern-regional-office@usda.gov. For fax and email, include "Emerald Project Objection" in the subject line. Acceptable formats for electronic objections are text or html e-mail, Adobe portable document format (pdf), and formats viewable in Microsoft Office applications. Objections must be submitted within 45 calendar days following the publication of this notice in the Coeur d'Alene Press. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. Regulations prohibit extending the time to file an objection. The objection must contain the minimum content requirements specified in §218.8(d) and incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided in §218.8(b). It is the objector's responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer pursuant to §218.9. All objections are available for public inspection during and after the objection process. At a minimum, an objection must include the following (36 CFR 218.8(d)): 1) The objector's name and address, with a telephone number, if available; 2) a signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for Email

may be filed with the objection); 3) when multiple names are listed on an objection, identification of the lead objector (verification of the identity of the lead objector shall be provided upon request); 4) the name of the proposed project, the name and title of the responsible official, and the name(s) of the National Forest(s) and/or Ranger District(s) on which the proposed project will be implemented; and 5) a description of those aspects of the proposed project addressed by the objection, including specific issues related to the proposed project, if applicable, how the objector believes the environmental analysis or draft decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy; suggested remedies that would resolve the objection; supporting reasons for the reviewing officer to consider; and 6) a statement that demonstrates connection between prior specific written comments on the particular proposed project or activity and the content of the objection. Objections that do not adhere to these requirements make review of an objection difficult and are conditions under which the reviewing officer may set aside an objection pursuant to 36 CFR 218.10. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. CDA LEGAL 4803 AD#430856
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